

State of Vermont
Department of Housing and Community Development
National Life Building – North [phone] 802-828-3211
One National Life Drive
Montpelier, VT 05620-0501

*Agency of Commerce and
Community Development*

September 28, 2020

[Joe Pollio](#), Selectboard Chair
Town of Grafton
P.O. Box 180
Grafton, VT, 05146

RE: **Village Center Designation for Grafton Village Center**

Dear Mr. Pollio:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you, at its meeting on September 28, 2020, the Downtown Development Board found that the Grafton Village Center application met the statutory requirements ([24 VSA Chapter 76A](#)) and designated the village center to receive state [benefits](#). The designated village center will remain in place for eight years, until September 2028. At that time, the town will need to renew its designation. The Department of Housing and Community Development will send out the renewal reminder six months prior to the renewal date.

Our team will check-in with the municipality annually to offer support, share updated information, tools, and resources related to the designation, and ensure our local contact information is up-to-date.

Please find below a few useful links to support your village revitalization efforts:

- [Downtown and Village Center Funding Directory](#) – A comprehensive list of state, federal and nonprofit funding sources.
- [Strong Communities Newsletter](#) – A quarterly newsletter from the Department of Housing and Community Development with news on new programs and grant opportunities. [Subscribe here.](#)
- [Vermont Planning Atlas](#) – An easy-to-use tool that provides access to commonly requested data - the status of local planning and regulations, designation boundaries, and more.
- [Vermont Planning Manual](#) – The Planning Manual offers up-to-date guidance on preparing municipal plans, as well as an overview of the state designation programs, and their benefits.
- [Neighborhood Development Area Designation](#) – An add-on housing designation program that helps reduce the time and cost of state permitting in areas within a ¼ mile walking distance of a designated village center.

Please do not hesitate to call or email me if you have questions or need assistance.

Sincerely,



[Josh Hanford](#), Vermont Downtown Development Board Chair
Commissioner of the Department of Housing and Community Development

cc: [William Kearns](#), Town Administrator (via email)
[Dave Culver](#), Grafton Planning Commission Chair (via email)
[Windham Regional Commission](#) (via email)

Enclosures: Summary of the benefits for designated villages
Board-approved designated village center boundary map

